REMARKS

Claims 2-14 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Green et al., U.S. 6,111,888.

Independent claim 21 recites a method of controlling a plurality of controllable devices interconnected through at least one common signaling bus. The method includes arranging at least one input member and at least one output member, each input and output member having at least one input contact and at least one output contact and each contact having a unique identity and each input and output member communicating through the common bus. The input member is arranged to receive a control signal from at least one control arrangement connected to the input contact of the input member. Upon reception of the control signal generating an action signal comprising an address corresponding to a unique identity of the output contact connected to at least one of the controllable devices. Furthermore, the method includes providing the action signal on the common bus by the input member to be received by the output member connected to at least one of the controllable devices wherein the output member is arranged to monitor the common bus, and upon reception of a signal corresponding to a unique identity of one of its output terminals output a signal to the terminal.

Independent claim 22 recites a network arrangement. The network arrangement includes at least one common bus. An input member is connected to the common bus. An output member is connected to the common bus. The input member comprises at least one input contact defined with a unique identity. The output member comprises at least one output contact defined with a unique identity. The input member is adapted to receive an input signal through the at least one input contact. The output member is adapted to provide an output signal through the at least one output contact. The input member is arranged to generate an action signal transmitted over the buss from the input member to the output member. The action signal comprises an address corresponding to the unique identity of an output contact.

Green et al. '888 describes an apparatus and method for deterministically communicating data between multiple nodes in a fashion that is consistent with the Controller Area Network ("CAN") communications protocol. The system applies to multiple nodes that are functional blocks within an operating system environment and to multiple nodes that are each connected to a serial bus. The system utilizes standard CAN error checking, bus arbitration and message formatting and therefore uses standard CAN controllers and transceivers. One node on the bus is selected as the master node. The master node issues a periodic synchronization signal which defines time divisions within which the operations of each node and communications over the CAN bus are organized. Data, particularly real-time data, is transmitted between nodes on the CAN bus during a known time division. Standard CAN bus arbitration is used to ensure that real-time data is transmitted over the CAN bus prior to the transmission of non-real-time data. This ensures that real-time data is, if appropriate, transmitted during each time division.

Applicant emphasizes that the structure discussed in Green et al. '888 does not describe an input and output member as described in claims 22 and 23. In particular, Green et al. '888 describes various nodes 101, 102, and 103 but each being unique identified. Note as claimed, each node in the present invention includes an input and output member. The node itself is uniquely identified, as discussed in Green et al. '888, but the individual aspects of the nodes such as the input and output member are further uniquely identified. Green et al. '888 states "[t]he CAN protocol (Version 1.2) utilizes an **eleven bit identifier field** in each message as a priority code to identify **a particular device** connected to bus 104." Nodes 101-103 are connected to the bus 104. Green et al. '888 is essentially quiet and does not contemplate uniquely identifying separate processing input and output components of its nodes.

Moreover, Green et al. '888 aims to solve the timing problem and number of messages transmitted over a CAN bus. The arrangement of Green et al. '888 comprises of nodes having processors, CAN controllers, and CAN transceivers. A particular device, i.e., a node, connected to the bus (not connected to the node) is identified by an identifier field in each message. The present invention aims to solve the problem of connecting a controlling device, such as a switch, to a controllable device, such as a light using a single bus connection. To solve the problem, input and output members are provided with one or several contacts, connectors, or input/outputs. For this reason, at least one contact of the input member is connected to the controllable device. Each contact, e.g. of the input device, is assigned with a unique identity. Thus, when a signal, such as actuation of a switch, is connected to one input contact it is converted to the address of the specific output contact and transmitted over the bus to be received by an address input member having the contact with the unique identity. Therefore, Green et al. '888 does not anticipate either of independent claims 21 and 22.

Furthermore, amended claim 22 now includes the feature of an output member being arranged to monitor a common bus, and upon reception of a signal corresponding to a unique identity of one of its output terminals output a signal to a terminal of the input member. This feature is clearly not disclosed by Green et al. '888 as cited in the Office Action dated 19 September 2005.

Green et al. '888 describes a CAN-bus where each node is addressed by means of a unique 11-bit identifier. However, Green et al. '888 does neither indicate that a microprocessor, a CAN-controller or a CAN-transceiver as illustrated in figure 1 are addressable by a unique address different from the 11-bit identifier identifying the node as a whole nor how this may be achieved.

Green et al. '888 is more concerned with the priority order in which real-time and non-real time messages are sent between the nodes in the CAN-network.

Note AN96116 as referred to by the examiner in the Office Action dated 19 September 2005, does give a detailed description of a CAN-transceiver but fails to disclose unique addresses for the input and output ports of the CAN-transceiver which are different from the CAN-address of the node which the transceiver is part of.

Therefore, Green et al. '888 does not anticipate either of independent claims 21 and 22.

As to claims 2-14 and 18-20, they are dependent on claim 21, respectively. Therefore, claims 2-14 and 18-20 are also allowable for the same reasons argued with respect to claim 21.

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatenable over Green et al. '888 in view of Dauner et al., U.S. 6,526,460.

Dauner et al '460 describes a vehicle communications system, in particular for a motor vehicle, is provided having a plurality of equipment units for transmitting, receiving, acquiring and/or processing data for executing applications. The equipment units are connected to a common data bus via associated hardware interfaces. The applications are assigned flexibly controllable functions, each function being respectively assigned a software interface for exchanging data with other software interfaces and/or hardware interfaces, and the functions being executed within any desired equipment unit.

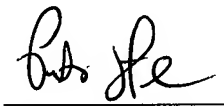
Given that claims 15-17, are dependent on claim 1, the reasons argued for claim 1 are also applicable here. Also, Dauner et al '460 does not address the deficiencies of Green et al. '888. Therefore, the proposed combination of Dauner et al '460 and Green et al. '888 does not render obvious claims 15-17.

In view of the above amendments and for all the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections made under

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Accordingly, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding matters pending in this application, please feel free to contact the undersigned below.

Respectfully submitted,



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